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# MISSION REPORT



OUR TOWN MODEL SHOW

10-11 SEPTEMBER 2011

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Broadmeadow racecourse, Saturday morning and not a thoroughbred racehorse in sight, not even a little jockey garishly clad in a costume that looks like he lost his way in the Mardi Gras. All that the eye can see are little trains, boats, planes, cars, trucks, doll's houses and heaps of other miniature thingies.

Yes, were here again, at the annual Our Town Model Show, with a fleet of 30 model boats, a few extra bits and pieces of boats that just wouldn't connect together by any means, so had to remain separated.

14 thoroughbred TF72 members made an appearance this year from Hunter Central and Sydney, although some would say a bunch of o'l nags, we nonetheless put together a stunning display as usual. New first time models from Sydneyites were Mark Buttsworth's USN DD USS HAZELWOOD with a beautiful scratch built drone helicopter with a zillion parts, Geoff Eastwood with a little coastal collier BIRCHGROVE PARK and two WW1 RAN destroyers from Vince Fazio, HMAS PARRRAMATTA and HMAS STUART. Also a new unfinished WW2 Black Swan class frigate HMS WREN by Novocastrian Richard Dawson.

A superb addition to the Task Force 72 display this year were 3 very nice 1:72 scale dioramas built by Chris Bailey (FBS). Any members attending the AGM this year would have seen these at the Riverwood Air League hall where Chris spends most of his spare time building models, bashin' out tunes on drums and generally being mean to little boys who like aeroplanes. So naturally these dioramas have a naval aviation theme. One depicts a flying off platform on a midships 12" gun turret of the WW1 battlecruiser HMAS AUSTRALIA and a Sopwith F7 Camel biplane about to take to the air (or water). A second scene is the stern of USS TARAWA (LHA-1), a marine assault ship, with 2 US Marine Bronco OV-10D close air support aircraft on deck being prepped for a mission in operation Desert Storm 1991.

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And the third, the 'piece de resistance', the stern deck of the famous fast battlegwagon USS MISSOURI (BB-63) during Pacific operations in WW2 with 3 Navy OS2U Kingfisher recon aircraft, 2 on the catapults and the third on the deck below having the engine overhauled by a group of mechanics. Chris is actually building the complete 1:72 scale models of TARAWA and MISSOURI as seen by club members at the Air League hall and I suspect that he gets a lot of inspiration from these magnificent dioramas when the going gets tough on the full size models.

A very interesting display/collection this year was a range of "Star Wars" figurines at about 300mm height. I remember my son having an "Empire Storm Trooper and Darth Vader" 30 odd years ago. This particular collection included just about every character in the whole series, including the animated series "The Clone Wars" and PJ took a photo of his favourite character 'Jabba the Hutt' and friend, which I just had to include in this report. Which reminds me - senior Sydney base member Ron 'Rosey' was unable to attend this year's show with his international fleet of allied and axis WW2 destroyers. It had something to do with a fall whilst jogging around the streets of Port Macquarie after our last display. Really Ron, at your age, tsk! tsk! hope the back's better soon, we missed your boats, but the usual suspects turned up with their fleets.

Chas 'bitchin' Baxter with destroyers and corvettes, the 'peterfleet' of Peter Jones, who spent most of the weekend making pulley blocks for his new build MV MATUA and Ian Howard with cruiser HMAS PERTH and Type 21 frigate HMS AVENGER. Geoff's HMS LEANDER and his HMAS QUEENBOROUGH made a cosy pair with Wolfgang's modernised Daring class HMAS VAMPIRE. John Hughes brought 2 sailing ships, schooner KARUAH and RN frigate HMS AUDACIOUS and a humongous tub of cakes and bikkies for us to nibble on all weekend (methinks he wants to share his cholesterol problems with us all). Richard Dawson also had his growing fleet of WW2 escorts and U-Boats.

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Almost forgot JC, who could forget 'the Jimmy' Champion! He brought along his Anzac class HMAS PARRAMATTA (FFH-154). And lastly, my own curry fleet, finally having gotten some authentic colouring onto the faces of the Indian marine band on INS MUMBAI's helo deck. It was a near impossible task to find a FS (federal standard) colour to suit Hindu skin pigment and too many associates were complaining about the seasick grey faces.

Finally, on Sunday arvo, 4 of our stalwart east coast members crossed over to the wrong side of the tracks and were seduced by the pungent smell of burning coal and dieseline fumes wafting over the fleet from various model railway displays and retailers. Whilst 3 of these dastardly blackguards, Mike Casey Jones-James, Geoffrey Thomas Tankengine and David Rowlinstock bought Australian diesel locos, the fourth amigo Alien Steamchest bought a streamlined British LMS Coronation class 4-6-2 steam loco in beautiful light blue and silver livery. How classy is that.

Once again, a big thank you to all members who displayed their models, helped to set up and dismantle the display and to those who just turned up to give their support or to buy trains. This was the last display that I have committed myself to head up, so hopefully someone else will take it on next year, whoever does that can depend on my continued support.



The Task Force 72 display at the Our Town Model Show 2011.



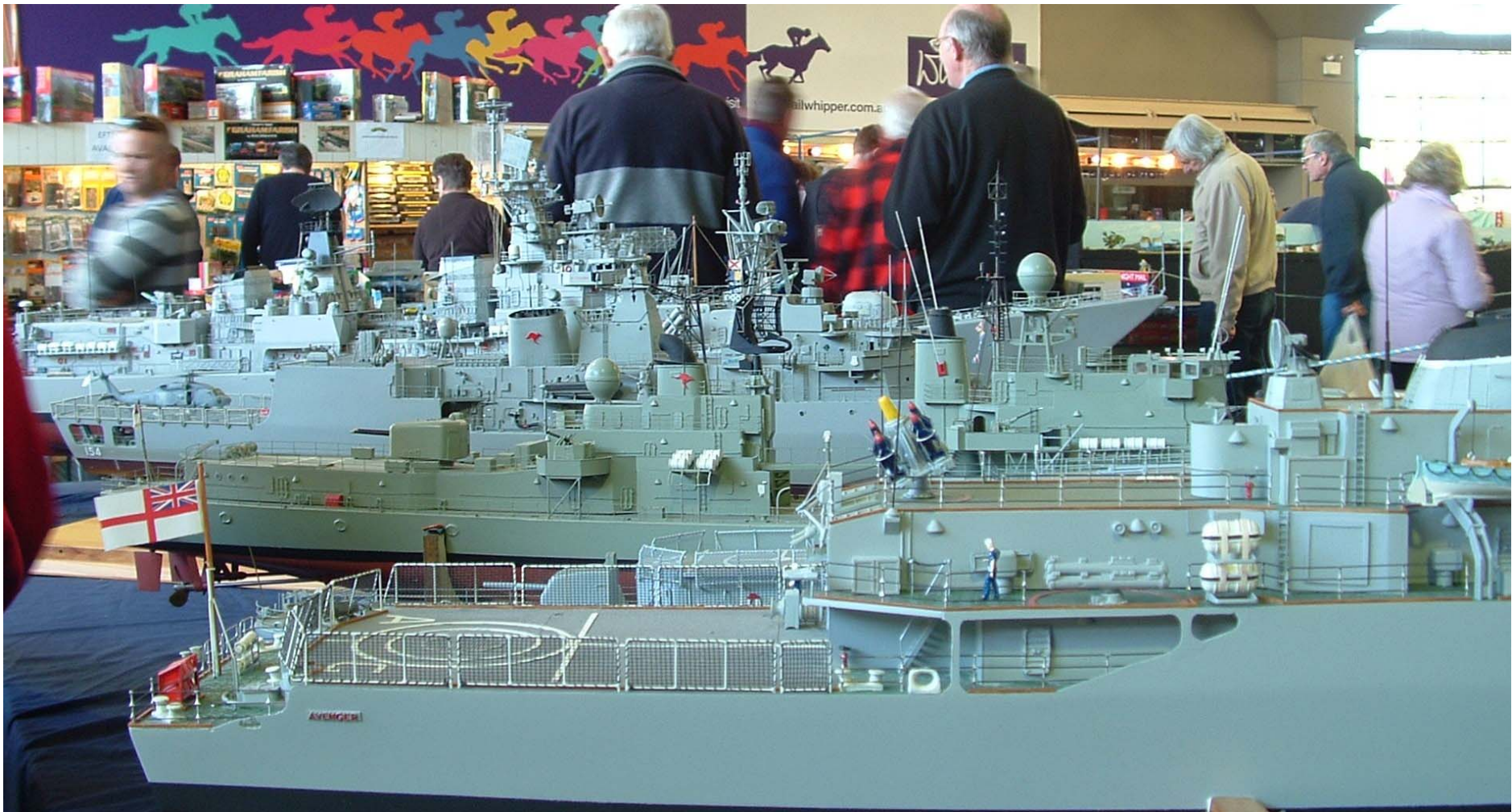
Chas Baxter's fleet of World War 2 era ships on display with Chris Bailey's HMAS AUSTRALIA diorama and Ian Howard's award winning HMAS PERTH.



Chris' USS MISSOURI diorama with Allan's Indian warships.



MV MATUA (Peter Jones).



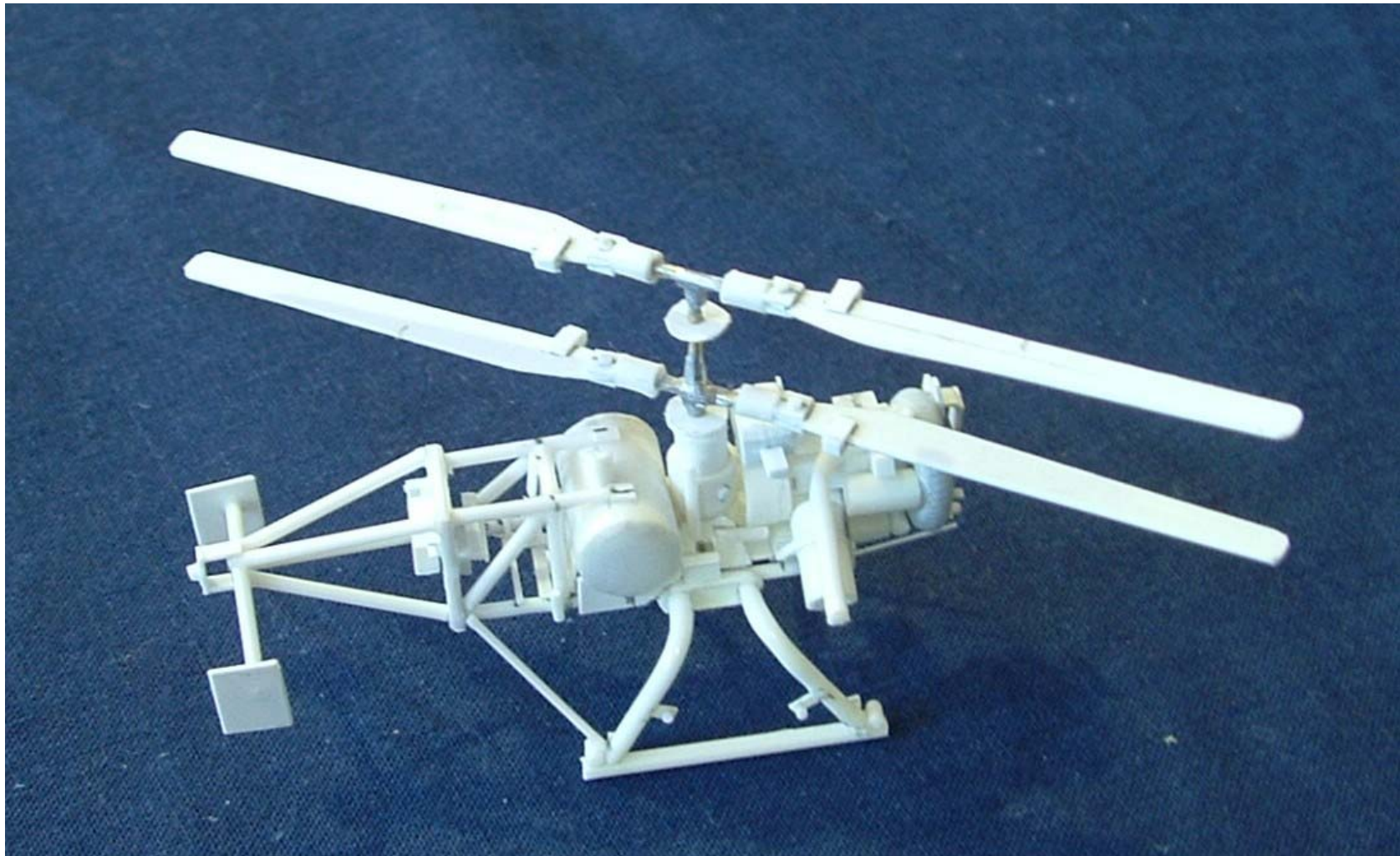
Post World War 2 frigates and destroyers. From front to rear - HMS AVENGER (Ian Howard), HMAS VAMPIRE (Geoff Eastwood), HMAS PARRAMATTA (Jim Campion) and INS MUMBAI (Allan Pew).



Quarterdeck and Flight Deck of HMAS PARRAMATTA with INS MUMBAI in the background.



One of the growing number of merchant vessels in the Task Force 72 fleet.  
This one is BIRCHGROVE PARK (Geoff Eastwood).



Mark Buttsworth's fabulous scratch built drone helicopter.



Our Town is well worth a visit for anyone with an interest in modelling and there is something for everyone. These are the 300mm figurines from Star Wars.



Jabba the Hut.



Task Force 72 members are a diverse bunch of people. We are not only interested in ships - several of us are also railway enthusiasts. Now that is a lethal combination if I have ever heard of one. It is inevitable at Our Town that one of us will come home with a new addition for the HO model railway. Here is Allan's LMS Coronation class Pacific No. 6220 alongside Mike James' ex - Victorian Railways (now SSR) B class locomotive B61.



Our Town is a great place for model railway enthusiasts. Here is a faithfully recreated NSWGR scene from the steam era. A D55 class locomotive has just shunted the Coal Stage whilst 3801 coals underneath. A non-streamlined C38 class pacific waits its turn under the coal stage, whilst on the main line, a C36 class (with round top boiler) and D59 double head to accelerate a train.